

MEMBER ALERT

Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Manager
60 Broad Street – 37th Fl., New York, NY 10004 USA
Tel: +1 212 847 4500
Fax: +1 212 847 4599
E-mail: info@american-club.net



www.american-club.com

MARCH 07, 2006

CUSTOMS FINES IN SENEGAL

Your Managers have recently been advised that the Senegalese customs authorities have tightened their controls relating to crew fraud and are now imposing very large penalties on vessels where crew members are alleged to have taken ashore even small quantities of ship's stores.

For example, a vessel was recently requested to pay CFA 150 million (approximately Euros 230,000) for a crew member who was found trying to sell six drums of lube oil valued at CFA 45,000 (Euros 68). The calculation made by the customs authorities was based on the value of the vessel's bunkers.

The authorities in this case maintained their demand against the vessel, even though the crewmember admitted his guilt in writing. In such circumstances it is very difficult to negotiate as to the quantum of these penalties.

All owners trading to Senegal are urged to ensure that the Master and crew are aware of this potential problem and take all appropriate steps to monitor ship's stores as a means of preventing the imposition of such penalties.

We would like to acknowledge TCI Africa for providing information for this Alert.